THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir. Depending on the size of the various units, the requisite medical care arrangements exist.

(b) A 24 bedded hospital is already functioning in Ordance Factory, Bolangir, Orissa.

Conservation of petroleum products in armed forces

4712. SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO: DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what steps the armed forces have taken towards conservation of petroleum products;

(b) whether with the measures undertaken by the Army for conservation of petroleum products, their consumption has indicated proportional reduction; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) The Armed Forces have taken a series of measures for conservation of petroleum products such as imposition of quantitative restrictions, the use of multigrade lube oils, upward revision of consumption norms in terms of more Kilometers Per Litre (KPL) of fuel oils for vehicles, the training of Army drivers to inculcate fuel efficient driving habits, the use of field kits for oil testing etc. Oil Conservation Week was also observed in Defence Establishments from February 13—19, 1995 to spread the awareness on the oil conservation.

(b) and (c) The results of the conservation measures undertaken by the Army since 1988-89 have been encouraging and the consumption of petroleum products have reduced notwithstanding the Army's extensive involvement in internal security duties resulting in additional use of the transport.

Defence Pension Bill

4713. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATARAMAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount spent on defence pension bills during the past three years, year-wise;

(b) what is the number of pension cases in the arrears list till date with reasons therefor;

(c) whether there are escalations of the expenditure incurred on this account;

(d) if so, what are the reasons for the same;

(e) how these escalations are proposed to be put down;

(f) what is the amount spent on para military forces per annum; and

(g) whether Government have any proposals and plans to curb escalations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Expenditure/Allocation on Defence Pension Bills during the past three years is as under:

1992-93 — Rs. 2312.76 crores

1993-94 — Rs. 2530.75 crores

1994-95(RE) — Rs. 2721.00 crores

(b) No arrears list of pension cases is pending.

(c) and (d) There is increase in expenditure on accout of pensions due to following reasons:

(i) Increase in number of eligible Penioners year after year.

(ii) Increase in dearness relief sanctioned by Government periodically.

(iii) Sanction of One Time Increase in Pensions w.e.f. 1.1.92 to Armed Forces Pensioners.

(e) to (g) Expenditure on pension bills is obligatory.

The entire expenditure on civil pension including Para Military Forces is booked by Ministry of Finance under one composite grant. There is no separate major,

minor and sub-head/detailed heads for projecting and accounting of pensions paid to Para Military Forces. Hence, amount separately spent on Para Military Forces per annum on this account is not available.

Problems of Ex-Army Personnel

4714. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the formula of reservations for SCs/STs, and BCs/MBCs in selections is applied for promotions from the post of soldier to Major;

(b) if so, the detailed particulars thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) which State contributes men more in all categories in India area-wise; and

(d) what are the norms to be followed by the district Ex-Army Men Board in dealing with the problems of Ex-Army Personnel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) The selection to all ranks in the Armed Forces is open to all eligible Indian nationals, irrespective of caste, creed, community and religion. As such, there is no reservation for recruitment or for promotion in the Army.

(c) Recruitment to the Army from various states is based on the percentage of Recruitable Male Population of each State. Based on the formula, the intake in the Army is maximum from Uttar Pradesh.

(d) The functions of Zila Sainik Boards are broadly as under:

(a) Registration of ex-Servicemen and issue of Identity Cards.

(b) Maintain a register of war widows, and those disabled in action with a view to ensure their welfare.

(c) Promote and maintain, under the guidance of the concerned Rajya Sainik Board, welfare measures in the District, such as Rest House for ex-Servicemen, old age pensioners Homes, vocational and other training facilities, etc.

(d) Assisting ex-Servicemen and next-of-kin of deceased service personnel in settlement of pension and other retirement benefits.

(e) Assist ex-Servicemen in forming and setting up cooperatives for their self-employment.

(f) Granting financial relief to ex-Servicemen and their widows from funds at their disposal.

(g) Assisting ex-Servicemen in representing their cases with the local administration/Defence authorities.

Rocket firing in Rajouri and Poonch Sectors

4715. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistani troops have been firing rockets in Rajouri and Poonch sectors to harass the people of these border districts for their refusal to support subversive activities;

(b) if so, the number of Times Pakistani troops fired rockets in Rajouri and Poonch districts in the last 12 months;

(c) the damage caused by these firings in terms of men and materials; and

(d) the reaction of Government to these unprovoked firings and were these facts brought before the international fora to expose Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) There have been incidents of firing of rockets by the Pakistani troops/terrorists in Rajouri and Poonch sectors. During last 12 months, 22 such incidents in Rajouri sector and 33 in Poonch sector have been reported, which resulted in injuries to some of our